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'Smugglers of Explosives' May Be Shot

Castro Claims He's Caught CIA Agents

CPYRGHT

HAVANA, Oct. 31 (UPI)

Fidel Castro claimed last night his men had captured U. S. counter-intelligence agents smuggling explosives into Cuba, and threatened to shoot them along with prisoners from what he called an American-organized raiding party.

Castro, in a two-hour and 40-minute TV and radio broadcast, compared the alleged capture of agents, possibly Canadians working for the Central Intelligence Agency, and exile raiders, with the U-2 affair of 1960, when Russia announced it had shot down U. S. pilot Francis Gary Powers.

'MOTHER SHIP'

Apparently going on what he had learned from interrogating captured exile raiders, Castro named the vessel "Rex" as the "mother ship" of an Oct. 21 landing attempt on Cuba's south coast, described it, and said it was based at West Palm Beach.

A vessel named the Rex and painted blue, as Castro said was found tied up at the port of Palm Beach, just north of West Palm Beach. It was registered from Nicaragua, whose government unofficially has befriended anti-Castro exile groups.

Castro said the Rex was the CIA's boat and had been used in at least 10 raids.

The CIA in Washington had no comment.

IN PERSON

Castro promised to present on TV tho he did not set a date — five "infiltrators" he said were captured in the landing attempt.

He said two smaller boats were put into the ocean off Pinar del Rio province from the Rex.

The CIA agents, Castro

said, were arrested when they landed at Jose Marti airport outside Havana last Thursday in a Canadian Piper Cub. He did not say how many were arrested and failed to identify the passengers, except to say one was from the Miami suburb of Coral Gables.

Castro said customs inspectors opened a package on the plane "and found it contained a hand grenade and several detonators wrapped in foam rubber."

He said the passengers "described themselves as organizers of a Canadian airline which would carry parcel post packages. They were CIA agents. On their last pre-

vious trip they thought they had won everybody's confidence and they brought in explosives, but they were discovered."

"Naturally the Canadian government is not responsible for this," he said. "It has been very respectful of international law and we have good relations with Canada."

He added: "The CIA is taking advantage of this and engaging in very serious crimes which Cuban laws condemn with capital punishment."

ATTACK ON FREIGHTER

The sea landing attempt camp the same night the American-owned freighter J.

Louis said it was attacked by Cuban planes. The attack was in an area close to where Castro placed the landing.

Castro said the five men captured were from a party of seven which came ashore in one of the smaller boats. He read a cable from Panama reporting six Cubans were picked up in a bullet-riddled boat by a freighter. Castro said this was the second boat from the Rex.

He said the U. S. tried to picture Cuba as an "aggressor" for its attack on the Louis, but said Cuban planes were actually trying to stop a CIA-organized landing attempt.

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